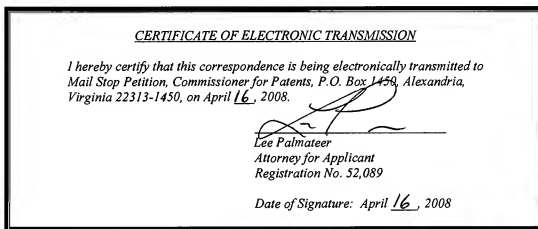


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Applicant: | STATHAM et al. | Customer No.: | 23405 |
| Serial No.: | 10/598,046 | Confirmation No.: | 9495 |
| Filed: | August 16, 2006 | Group Art Unit: | 3679 |
| Title: | SEALING OF PIPE TO SUMP INTERFACES | Examiner: | Unassigned |

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this national phase application, please amend the priority application as follows.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.